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OCI No. 2735/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
3 September 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in South Vietnam and Laos

1. South Vietnam

a. The Saigon regime is continuing its comprehensive effort to create an impression of order and unity. Military officials have publicly denied the existence of dissension within the armed forces, and the joint general staff is accepting full responsibility for the imposition of martial law. Saigon and other cities are calm following government-sponsored demonstrations to show broad popular support for President Diem and the armed forces.

b. The pattern of Viet Cong activity has shown no discernible change that can be attributed to the Buddhist crisis. There has been a slight increase, however, in the number of Communist attacks during the past week.

2. Laos

a. Prince Souphannouvong, acting through his emissary Phoumi Vongvichit, appears to be trying to reach an arrangement with Premier Souvanna which would enable him to return from Khang Khay to Vietiane prior to Souvanna's departure next week for an extended trip abroad.

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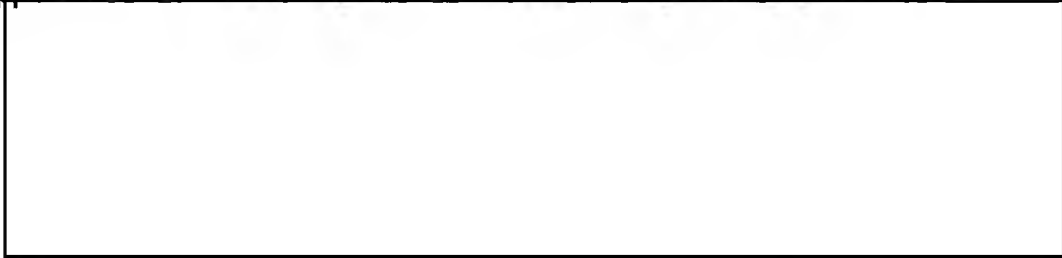
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b. The opposing forces have engaged in limited military activity during the past week. Pathet Lao probes have been noted in the Nhommarath region; Meo and neutralist forces have continued harassing actions along Route 7 in the Ban Ban area.

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